

MINUTES  
WEST VALLEY LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 23, 2021

Chairman Steve Alejandro called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Committee members present were: Steve Alejandro, Paul McKenzie, Monty Long, Bruce Colburn, Erica Wirtala. A quorum of the advisory committee was present. Meeting was held in the Planning Office conference room at the Flathead County complex in Kalispell. County Planning Director Mark Mussman was in attendance. No members of the public attended.

**The minutes from the September 29, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion by Monty Second by Bruce C., unanimous vote in favor.**

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Alejandro introduced Erica W. to the Committee. Erica has a long history in land use planning, including time with the County under “FRDO” and various local and county planning entities. She is currently with NMAR as a public affairs director and resides in the West Valley area.

Chairman Alejandro raised the issue of need for elections of officers for 2021.

**Monty L. nominated Steve Alejandro as Committee Chair, second by Bruce C. Motion passed unopposed.**

**Bruce C. nominated Erica Wirtala as Vice Chair, second by Paul M. Motion Passed unopposed.**

**Steve A nominated Paul McKenzie as Secretary, second by Bruce C. Motion Passed Unopposed.**

Brief discussion was had regarding the remaining open seat on the committee and suggested members recruit individuals who may have an interest.

OLD BUSINESS:

Extensive discussion was had over the need and process for update of the Neighborhood Plan (NP). Chairman Alejandro presented an overview of the elements of the plan that were in need of update. Discussion of the history of the plan in context with other planning efforts at the time was had. Discussion of the roles the plan and associated zoning regulations had and how they work together and independently was had.

The committee discussed if the NP is still the correct planning document for the area. A discussion of alternatives to NP process, including zoning districts and overlays. Extensive discussion of what a public process would look like and how to formulate a committee to lead the review – update process.

There was general agreement that the first step needed to be some type of survey of the residents to identify what values, priorities, issues, concerns, wishes and goals for the neighborhood looked like. What is the current state of the neighborhood, what does it look like in the future? Is the current plan consistent with future needs, and opportunities?

Discussion of the survey process. How do we get help in formulating the survey? How do you implement the survey? How do you pay for the survey? How do you generate interest and involvement of the community? How do you use the results?

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Explore possibilities for assistance in developing and delivering the survey
  - University resources
  - County
  - Other resources, NPO's
- Mechanism of survey. Ensure every landowner in the zone has the opportunity for input.
  - Mail – hard copy
  - E-mail – digital
  - Online
  - Combination of all?
- How do we pay for a survey?
  - County assistance?
  - Grants?

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No general public comment was received.

**Monty L made a motion to adjourn, second by Bruce C. Passed unopposed at 7:40pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul R. McKenzie', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Paul R. McKenzie